

REMARKS

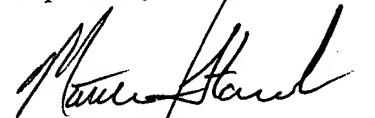
The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action mailed January 15, 2002. This Amendment and request for reconsideration is intended to be fully responsive thereto.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hussaini et al. (USP D4269,679). Claims 3-7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hussaini et al. '679. These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the following comments.

The patent reference of Hussaini et al. '679 has the identical inventorship as the instant application; namely, Saied Hussaini and Marc Iacovelli. Hussaini et al. '679 was filed on October 15, 1999 and issued August 22, 2000. Therefore, a rejection under 102 is not proper because the inventors for the prior patent document are the same as the inventors named in this application. Hussaini et al. '679 is not prior art to this application. See MPEP 2132.01.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. It is believed no other fee is due with this submission. If that determination should be incorrect, then please debit Deposit Account No. 50-0548 and notify the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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